

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PARIS 09642 061237 Z

43

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 PM-09 NSC-10 SS-15 RSC-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 USIA-12 PRS-01

RSR-01 /106 W

----- 128258

R 061126 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8988

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 9642

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDEV, CN

SUBJECT: POLITICAL EVOLUTION OF COMORO ISLANDS

REF: DAR ES SALAAM 1137

1. IN RECENT CONVERSATION SENIOR OFFICER OF DEPARTMENT OF OVERSEAS TERRITORIES TOLD EMBOFF THAT NEXT STEPS IN EVOLUTION OF COMORIAN POLITICAL STRUCTURE NOT YET WORKED OUT AND WOULD HAVE TO AWAIT RETURN OF PRIME MINISTER ABDALLAH LATER IN MONTH. MUCH HE SAID WOULD ALSO DEPEND ON NEW FRENCH MINISTER FOR TERRITORIES. OFFICIAL POINTED OUT THAT GOF HAD NOT RECEIVED FORMAL REQUEST FOR MODIFICATION OF EXISTING INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS BINDING COMORO ISLANDS TO FRANCE. IF COMORO REPRESENTATIVES IN FRENCH PARLIAMENT PUT FORWARD DRAFT LAW ASKING FOR INDEPENDENCE, FRENCH WOULD THEN PROCEED TO HOLD REFERENDUM IN ISLANDS.

2. ACCORDING TO OFFICIAL, REFERENDUM WOULD BE ESSENTIAL STEP TOWARDS MODIFICATION OF OVERSEAS TERRITORY STATUS. IN PRINCIPAL, INDEPENDENCE FOR COMOROS POSED NO PROBLEM. IN PRACTICE, GOF WOULD HAVE TO FACE QUESTION OF WHAT TO DO WITH MAYOTTE, WHICH HE SAID WOULD ALMOST CERTAINLY VOTE FOR CONTINUED RELATIONSHIP WITH FRANCE.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PARIS 09642 061237 Z

EM OFFICIAL NOTED THAT IN DISCUSSIONS ABOUT FUTURE OF TERRITORY, GOF WOULD POINT OUT THAT IT OBVIOUSLY WOULD BE EASIER FOR FRANCE TO PROVIDE RESOURCES TO COMOROS IF THEY REMAINED WITHIN FRENCH ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE THAN IF THEY WERE INDEPENDENT AND HAD TO COMPETE WITH OTHER FORMER COLONIES. COMOROS, HE SAID, WERE NOT VIABLE AND INDEPENDENCE WOULD NOT BE REAL IN VIEW OF CONTINUED DEPENDENCE ON OUTSIDE RESOURCES.

4. COMMENT: FRENCH DO NOT APPEAR TO BE DIRECTLY OPPOSING INDEPENDENCE FOR COMOROS. THEY WILL PRESUMABLY ADOPT TACTIC THEY HAVE USED IN RENEGOTIATION OF AID ACCORDS WITH FORMER COLONIES: TO STRESS COSTS OF BREAKING WITH ESTABLISHED SYSTEM. IN LAST ANALYSIS, HOWEVER, IF COMORIANS PUSH FOR INDEPENDENCE, FRENCH WILL AGREE TO REFERENDUM AND WOULD PROBABLY ALSO CONTINUE TO PROVIDE SOME AID TO FLEDGLING COUNTRY. IRWIN

CONFIDENTIAL

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CONSTITUTIONAL REFERENDUM, ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, FOREIGN ASSISTANCE, INDEPENDENCE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 APR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973PARIS09642
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS IRWIN
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730435/aaaahuji.tel
Line Count: 84
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 73 DAR ES SALAAM 1137
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15-Aug-2001 by shawdg>; APPROVED <27-Nov-2001 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> gwr 971204
Subject: POLITICAL EVOLUTION OF COMORO ISLANDS
TAGS: PDEV, CN, PDEV
To: AF
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005